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TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJ: SOVIET MEDIA ON PRESIDENT'S

AUGUST 12 SPEECH

REF: MOSCOW 12297

1. AFTER AUGUST 13 PRESS SILENCE ON WASHINGTON POLITICS,
PRAVDA RETURNED TO SUBJECT AUGUST 14 WITH LONG TASS
SUMMARY OF PRESIDENT'S AUGUST 12 SPEECH TO JOINT SESSION OF
CONGRESS AND STREL'NIKOV COMMENTARY ENTITLED "FIRST
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DAYS."

2. TASS STORY GIVES FULL AND GENERALLY BALANCED ACCOUNT OF SPEECH, REPORTING PRESIDENT'S REMARKS RE DOMESTIC PROBLEMS, U.S. NEED FOR STRONG DEFENSE AND UNWILLINGNESS TO RELY ON RESTRAINT OF OTHERS, AS WELL AS HIS WORDS DIRECTED AT NATO, ASIAN ALLIES, AND CHINA. SECTION OF SPEECH ON SOVIET UNION WAS RENDERED IN FULL, WITH IMPLICATION THAT IT WAS MORE CENTRAL TO SPEECH THAN IT IN FACT WAS. SIMILAR TREATMENT GIVEN IN 2-MINUTE SEGMENT OF "VREMYA" TV NEWS ON AUGUST 13. ARTICLE BEGINS BY NOTING PRESIDENT'S EXPRESSION OF CONFIDENCE IN CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT AND ENDS WITH HIS APPEAL FOR SUCH SUPPORT, SIGNIFYING PERHAPS NEWLY SHARPENED SOVIET SENSITIVITY TO IMPORTANCE IN U.S. SYSTEM OF LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT.

3. STREL'NIKOV PIECE, BASED LARGELY ON QUOTATIONS FROM WASHINGTON OBSERVERS AND JOURNALISTS, GIVES FAVORABLE AND OPTIMISTIC IMPRESSION OF NEW ADMINISTRATION. WHILE STRESSING CONTINUITY THEME, STREL'NIKOV POINTS OUT APPEALING ASPECTS OF NEW PRESIDENT'S STYLE, SUCH AS HIS CONTINUING TO LIVE IN HIS SUBURBAN HOUSE, HIS PREFERENCE FOR LESS PAPER-WORK AND MORE PERSONAL CONTACT AND ORAL REPORTS, AND HIS LACK OF HURRY (IN CONTRAST TO THAT OF HIS PREDECESSORS) IN HAVING HIS OFFICE REMODELED. ON IMPENDING CHOICE OF NEW VICE PRESIDENT, THERE IS, ACCORDING TO STREL'NIKOV, NO DOUBT THAT DIFFERENT INFLUENTIAL GROUPS WOULD LIKE TO SEE THEIR MAN IN THE JOB. ROCKEFELLER, GOLDWATER, REAGAN AND LAIRD ARE MENTIONED AS POSSIBILITIES. AUTHOR TAKES COMFORT FROM REPORTS THAT PRESIDENT HAS BEEN MEETING MORE OFTEN WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER THAN OTHER MEMBERS OF ADMINISTRATION AND CONCLUDES BY CITING WASHINGTON POST STATEMENT THAT FORD INTENDS TO CONTINUE SUMMIT DIALOGUE BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND MOSCOW.

4. INFLUENTIAL WEEKLY LITERATURNAYA GAZETA CARRIES BRIEF PROFILE OF THE PRESIDENT AND TWO SIGNED ARTICLES THAT RAISE INTERESTING POINTS. WASHINGTON TV LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND RADIO CORRESPONDENT YURIY SOLTON CLEARLY IMPLIES THE LINK BETWEEN WATERGATE BREAK-IN AND THE RESIGNATION OF PRESIDENT NIXON WHILE NOT ACTUALLY MAKING CRIMINAL CHARGES. COMMENTATOR V. TSOPPI OPENS WITH SERIES OF TENDENTIOUS QUESTIONS LEAVING UNSTATED WHETHER WATERGATE AFFAIR AND RESIGNATION WAS "TRIUMPH OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY" OR DEMOCRATS' REVENGE FOR 1972 DEFEAT; IF THE LATTER, DID THE MCGOVERN OR JACKSON WING

BENEFIT; WAS THE PRESIDENT'S RESIGNATION THE RESULT OF
A CONVULSIVE DEFENSIVE REACTION OF THE AMERICAN BODY
POLITIC OR A SYMPTOM OF ITS INHERENT SICKNESS? TSOPPI
WELCOMES MOVEMENT AWAY FROM AMERICAN MESSIANISM TOWARD
REALISM WHICH IS BASIS OF SUPPORT FOR DETENTE, BUT
HE POINTS OT CLOSER GROUPING OF ENEMIES OF DETENTE--
MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX AND THEIR EMISSARIES
IN CONGRESS, AFL-CIO LEADERSHIP, AND ZIONISTS--WHO
STRIVE TO USE PRESIDENT'S RESIGNATION IN EFFORTS TO
PROVOKE TENSION. SUREST BARRIER TO SUCH EFFORTS
IS OBSERVANCE OF SUMMIT DOCUMENTS.
STOESSEL

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